

ENGLISH only



Stockholm, 3 December 2021

## **STOCKHOLM “QUADRIGA” STATEMENT: OUR COMMITMENTS, OUR SECURITY, OUR OSCE**

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Sweden, Poland, and North Macedonia, as the previous, current, incoming, and future Chairpersons of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), reaffirm our strong commitment to the European security order as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, including sovereign equality, refraining from the threat or use of force, respect for territorial integrity, and the freedom of states to choose their own security arrangements, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Respect for these principles and commitments must be restored.
2. In 1975, the Helsinki Final Act set forth the basic principles guiding state relations, underpinned by the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to build peace, security, justice, and co-operation in Europe. Since then, we have succeeded in deepening and strengthening our commitments through multiple decisions and declarations, with the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and subsequent documents. The OSCE acquis reflects the OSCE comprehensive security concept, in which the political and military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions of security are addressed as an integral whole. This concept is indispensable and key to building and maintaining peace and security in our area.
3. We express grave concern about the ongoing crises and conflicts in the OSCE region. They constitute the most serious challenges to our common security and have often resulted from flagrant violations of our principles and commitments. There is an urgent need for peaceful and sustainable conflict resolution, in line with international law and OSCE principles and commitments, and for accountability for violations and abuses. We underline that international humanitarian law must be respected.
4. The conflict with respect to Ukraine remains the most blatant example of violations of our commonly agreed principles and of international law and the most serious challenge to security and stability in Europe. It is unacceptable that armed violence in eastern Ukraine continues to cause casualties and human suffering. The restrictions imposed on hundreds of thousands of civilians prevent their access to basic services and limit prospects for future integration. We are deeply concerned about the ongoing tensions in the region, and the lack of progress towards a sustainable political solution to the conflict in line with OSCE principles and commitments and with full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We continue to support the ongoing, active efforts undertaken in the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group towards the full implementation of the Minsk agreements, and commend the valuable engagement of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, which should be provided with unrestricted and unconditional access to ensure its impartial monitoring and reporting of the security situation.

5. We similarly reiterate our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We underline our concern about the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Our support for the Geneva International Discussions (GID) is unwavering, and we are grateful to its participants for ensuring that discussions continue in a regular and constructive manner. The OSCE is committed to continuing its leadership of this format, together with the European Union and the United Nations. It is important the GID make progress on core issues of non-use of violence and international security arrangements, as well as the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, as mandated by the six-point ceasefire agreement of 2008. We call for the commitments made in that agreement to be implemented immediately and in full.
6. We remain concerned with outstanding issues related to or resulting from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Although over one year has passed since the end of widespread military hostilities, the ceasefire remains fragile. We are convinced of the need for additional de-escalatory measures and a substantive and sustained negotiation process. There is an urgent need to make progress on humanitarian issues — including, inter alia, detainees, demining, missing persons, the voluntary return of displaced persons, and the protection of historic and cultural sites —as well as to allow unrestricted access for international humanitarian organizations. To this end, we express our full support for the efforts made under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office. Substantive negotiations and confidence building must be continued in good faith in order to reach a comprehensive, peaceful, and lasting settlement.
7. We are convinced also of the merits of regional co-operation between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Beyond the need to alleviate tension and ensure peace in the region, co-operation between the three countries will enhance economic prosperity and development in the South Caucasus. We are committed to supporting this vision in order to enable the three countries to identify and address issues of common interest.
8. The OSCE continues to facilitate the Transdniestrian settlement process, which is of central importance for regional security. We welcome the OSCE Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” format and underline the need to continue the result-oriented settlement process in 2022. We encourage further confidence-building measures that would improve the lives of people living on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River. We reiterate our strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population.
9. We remain deeply concerned about developments in Belarus affecting regional security and stability and causing severe human consequences, including the recent instrumentalization of migrants and refugees. We are also deeply worried about continued reports of grave human rights violations, including against journalists and other media actors, as well as the continued crack-down on civil society and persons belonging to national minorities. We repeat our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained, and for a complete and transparent investigation into all allegations of human rights violations, including excessive use of force against peaceful protestors and dissenting voices and widespread detentions and arbitrary arrests, and to hold those responsible accountable. We reiterate the need for an inclusive, open, and constructive national dialogue. We regret that

the offer by the previous and current Chairpersons-in-Office to support and facilitate communication and co-operation in Belarus was not yet accepted. We welcome that the Moscow and Vienna mechanisms have been activated with regard to the fraudulent presidential elections in 2020 and developments thereafter and urge all participating States to respect and use the tools of this Organization. We call on Belarus to fully implement OSCE commitments and principles, and international human rights law. The OSCE stands ready to support Belarus in this regard.

10. We commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Vilnius decision on Elements of the Conflict Cycle and welcome efforts to further strengthen the OSCE's capabilities in addressing the conflict cycle. We reaffirm the obligation of the participating States to settle disputes among them by peaceful means in such a manner as not to endanger international peace and security, and justice. In this regard, we encourage participating States to utilize the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to settle their disputes peacefully.
11. We recall that human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law are at the core of the comprehensive concept of security. They are prerequisites for peace and inextricably linked to security between states. We regret the continued democratic backsliding, violations of human rights, and the erosion of the rule of law, which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We reaffirm categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. We deeply regret that we could not reach consensus on holding this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting despite long and intensive negotiations. We underline that this is without prejudice for coming years. We call on all participating States to fully comply with OSCE principles and commitments and international human rights law.
12. We emphasize the crucial role of civil society, including human rights defenders, and free, independent, and pluralistic media for our comprehensive security. Civil society and independent media are essential to a free and open society and accountable systems of government and are of particular importance in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, including genuinely democratic and pluralistic elections, and the rule of law. This role is indispensable and has been recognised and affirmed on several occasions.
13. Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) remain vital for our common security. The effectiveness of Arms Control and CSBMs is reliant on political will. We call on all OSCE participating States to fully adhere to their arms control commitments and obligations. We underline the need for CSBMs to reduce military risks and increase military stability, predictability, mutual trust, and transparency. We stress the need to fully implement the Vienna Document and to commit to its modernization. The Open Skies Treaty also remains an important functioning CSBM. We underline the importance of the Forum for Security Co-operation as a decision-making body and reaffirm the value of the Structured Dialogue as a transparent, inclusive process owned and driven by participating States, and without a predetermined outcome; the Structured Dialogue shall explore how the negative developments concerning the conventional arms control and CSBM architecture in Europe can be reversed in order to create an environment conducive to reinvigorating conventional arms control and CSBMs in Europe.
14. Transnational threats and challenges to security and stability are growing in complexity. We recognize the continued importance of co-operation and dialogue between the OSCE executive structures, OSCE participating States, civil society, and the private sector to prevent

and counter transnational threats, such as organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, through an inclusive and gender-responsive approach. We reaffirm that all measures taken must be in full respect of OSCE commitments and principles and international law, including international human rights law.

15. Economic and environmental co-operation remains a key component to strengthening security, peace, and prosperity in the OSCE region. Women's economic empowerment and gender equality are essential to security, stability, and sustainable development in the OSCE area. We acknowledge the need to effectively address climate-related security risks and reaffirm the OSCE's role in preventing and countering environmental security challenges, including those related to climate change and environmental degradation. In addition, corruption remains a systematic hindrance to economic growth, sustainable development, and democratic processes and we reaffirm our commitments to combat it and to strengthen good governance.
16. We recall the important role that youth play in contributing to the promotion of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, and encourage all participating States to promote the role of youth in decision-making, leadership and democratic institutions.
17. We recognize that in order to advance the comprehensive concept of security it is of fundamental importance to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all spheres of society, and throughout the conflict cycle, including in humanitarian response efforts. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda is a corner stone in achieving comprehensive and sustainable peace and security in the OSCE region and we remain committed to the full and effective implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions. Gender-equal societies, where human rights are fully enjoyed by all, are more secure with better prospects for development and thus we stress the need to implement our OSCE commitments to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming across all OSCE activities.
18. We value the contribution of all OSCE executive structures to strengthen comprehensive security across the region. The OSCE's autonomous institutions are at the core of the OSCE's work. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media are all vital in assisting participating States to uphold and implement OSCE commitments and principles. The OSCE's unique field operations are crucial contributors to peace and security. We underline the important role of the special and personal representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office and thank them for their valuable support and contributions to comprehensive security. Moreover, we appreciate the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in advancing comprehensive security, and we value the continued co-operation between the OSCE, United Nations, Council of Europe, European Union, and all relevant stakeholders in fostering peace and security in our area.
19. We acknowledge that peace and security in the OSCE region is linked to that of our adjacent regions. In this context, we express deep concern about recent developments in Afghanistan and stand ready to support the OSCE in addressing the consequences that these have on our region. We appreciate the rich exchange and good relations with our Asian and Mediterranean Partners of Co-operation.
20. We regret that the OSCE is not realizing its full potential and recognize the need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization. We therefore regret that the "omnibus decisions" on the dates and venues of the OSCE's flagship conferences and meetings, and on

the Unified Budget Cycle, which would have allowed the organization to focus on its core tasks and assist participating States in upholding our commitments, were not adopted by the Ministerial Council. We look forward to continued discussions on these important issues.

21. 2025 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. As we approach this milestone, we call on all participating States to put into practice the OSCE principles and commitments we freely adopted. The European security order and the OSCE acquis provide the basis for building peace, democracy, security, and stability in our region. It is up to us, the participating States, to go back to basics, and to demonstrate by our actions that we are resolved to strengthen our common security.